

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 AF-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/087 W

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R 101042Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 54

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6466

E.O. 11652XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: ME MELANGE: ARAFAT VISIT, SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS,  
KOSYGIN VISIT TO NORTH AFRICA

REF: BEIRUT 5915

1. ARAFAT VISIT. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING HERE TO SUPPORT  
THE ROSY PICTURE ARAFAT SEEMS TO BE PAINTING ABOUT HIS  
VISIT TO MOSCOW (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN EMBOFF,  
DURING A MEETING OF ARAB AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW ARAFAT  
ADMITTED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THERE WERE MAJOR BUT  
UNSPECIFIED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PLO AND THE SOVIETS.

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OUR JORDANIAN SOURCE FEELS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING

TO KEEP CONTACT WITH OTHER PLO GROUPINGS, INCLUDING "RADICAL LEFTISTS," AND ARE NOT READY TO TIE THEMSELVES FIRMLY TO ARAFAT AND THAT THIS IS REAL REASON WHY PLO HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO OPEN ITS OFFICE HERE. SOVIET OFFICIALS, ON OTHER HAND, HAVE TOLD US AND OTHERS THAT INTRA-PLO DISPUTES AND PLO INABILITY TO SETTLE ON QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVE HAVE IMPEDED ASSIGNMENT OF PLO REPRESENTATIVE TO MOSCOW. THE FRENCH HERE FEEL THAT THIS ALLEGED INABILITY REFLECTS ADVERSELY ON ARAFAT'S AUTHORITY IN THE EYES OF THE SOVIETS.

2. SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. AN EGYPTIAN EMBOFF HAS TOLD US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT, BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORD-SADAT MEETING, THE SOVIETS HAD INVITED SADAT TO MOSCOW. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE "VERY ANGRY" THAT SADAT WOULD NOT BE COMING TO MOSCOW AND THAT HE WAS MEETING WITH THE U.S. PRESIDENT. (COMMENT: IF THE SOVIETS DID INVITE SADAT TO MOSCOW, THE INVITATION ITSELF MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OF A CALCULATED INSULT, IN VIEW OF THE STRONG EGYPTIAN FEELING THAT IT IS BREZHNEV'S TURN TO DO THE VISITING.)

3. KOSYGIN TRIP TO NORTH AFRICA. WE UNDERSTAND SECOND-HAND FROM THE TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR THAT THE TUNISIANS ARE BOTH SURPRISED AND PLEASED THAT KOSYGIN WILL BE VISITING TUNIS (PRESUMABLY RIGHT AFTER HIS TRIP TO LIBYA EARLY NEXT WEEK). THE VISIT WAS ARRANGED AT SHORT NOTICE AND AT SOVIET INITIATIVE. (COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT THE TUNIS STOP IS INDEED AN ADD-ON TO THE MORE IMPORTANT LIBYAN VISIT, BUT IT WILL GIVE THE SOVIETS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THEIR CONSULTATIONS WITH ARAB STATES BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND OF MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY.)  
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